



**Picasso Coach Builders Corp.**

63-34 Austin Street

Rego Park, New York 11374

Tel: 718.897.7606 Fax: 718.897.7975

RECEIVED

NOV 13, AM 11:47

OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

MR. KENNETH N. WEINSTEIN  
ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR SAFETY ASSURANCE  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
400 SEVENTH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390

00V-356.011

SUBJECT: NHTSA RECALL NO., 00V356

DEAR MR. WEINSTEIN:

AS AN ALTERER OF LINCOLN VEHICLES, PICASSO COACH BUILDERS CORP. IS A MANUFACTURER OF LIMOUSINES AND HAS DETERMINED THAT CERTAIN OF ITS VEHICLES MANUFACTURED IN YEARS 1998, 1999, AND 2000, ARE IN NON COMPLIANCE WITH MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD 110 (FMVSS 110). THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO PART 573 OF THE NHTSA REGULATIONS (49CFR, PART 573). THE NUMBERED SECTIONS BELOW CORRESPOND TO THOSE SET FORTH IN PART 573.

- (\*) 1. PICASSO COACH BUILDERS CORP. 63-34 AUSTIN ST. REGO PARK N.Y. 11374 TEL # 718-897-7606.
- (\*) 2. ALL LIMOUSINES STRETCHED OVER SIXTY INCHES (60"), MANUFACTURED IN MODEL YEARS 1998, 1999, AND 2000 ON LINCOLN MODEL 418 TOWN CAR CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH P225/70R16 TIRES.
- (\*) 3. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES INVOLVED IS: 16.
- (\*) 4. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 100% OF ALL SUCH VEHICLES ARE IN NON-COMPLIANCE.
- (\*) 5. IT APPEARS THAT THE STRETCHING OF THESE VEHICLES BEYOND 60" HAS CAUSED A WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION ON THE VEHICLE FRONT END WHICH WOULD EXCEED THE 88% (I.E. 1801#) OF MAXIMUM LOAD RATING OF THE TIRES. (AS CALCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FMVSS 109) BY APPROXIMATELY 200 POUNDS.
- (\*) 7. THE DETERMINATION WAS MADE BASED UPON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LINCOLN THAT THEIR TESTING AND ANALYSIS INDICATED SUCH DISCREPANCY.
- (\*) 8. FORD MOTOR CO. HAS AGREED TO CONDUCT THE ENTIRE RECALL TO REMEDY THE NON-COMPLIANCE FOR ALL FORD QVM MANUFACTURERS. FORD HAS DEVELOPED A NEW MICHELIN TIRE, SUCCESSFULLY TESTED TO ALL STANDARDS, WITH A RATING TO 2150# MAXIMUM LOAD, 1892# AT 88% RATING, TO BE USED IN THE CAMPAIGN. ITS DESIGNATION IS 225/70R16 107 REINFORCED. THE RECALL WILL BE PERFORMED AT NO CHARGE TO QVM MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR CONSUMERS, AND IT WILL PROCEED IN THREE STAGES, AS QUANTITY OF RETROFIT TIRES BECOMES AVAILABLE. FOUR NEW TIRE MOLDS ARE BEING MANUFACTURED TO FACILITATE THIS PRODUCTION.

**STAGE ONE**

ALL QVM MANUFACTURED CARS ELATED TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE ATLANTIC CITY LIMOUSINE SHOW ON NOVEMBER 6, 2000 WILL BE RETROFITTED IMMEDIATELY AND PRIOR TO THE SHOW.

**STAGE TWO**

THE SECOND RUN OF 5000 TIRES WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO MANUFACTURERS TO RETROFIT ALL INVENTORY "ON HOLD". IT IS EXPECTED THAT THESE TIRES WILL BE SHIPPED BY 11/200.

**STAGE THREE**

BY MID-NOVEMBER, FORD WILL SEND LETTERS TO ALL AFFECTED QVM CONSUMERS ADVISING THEM OF THE RECALL. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF NOVEMBER RETROFIT TIRE PRODUCTION WILL APPROXIMATE 1750WKS. TO HANDLE THE RECALL ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 10,000 VEHICLES.

- (\*) 9. FORD MOTOR CO. WILL FORWARD ALL APPROPRIATE NOTICES TO NHTSA.

THIS LETTER IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF LEGAL LIABILITY.

SINCERELY YOURS,

*Guillermo T. Hae*  
GUILLERMO T. HAE